

THIRTY-FIFTH

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Urban Sanitary Authority


OF THE

City of Worcester.

YEAR 1908.

WORCESTER :

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THE
Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health, being that for the year 1908.

TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE
COUNTY AND CITY OF WORCESTER.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year 1908.

The statistics of the year are on the whole favourable, and in some respects particularly so. The general death-rate is below the average of the past 10 years, but a large number of persons over 65 years of age died, especially from diseases of the respiratory organs. The low Infantile death-rate is very satisfactory, and the details relating to this matter in the Report are interesting and encouraging.

The Zymotic diseases caused 51 deaths, but 75 per cent. of these were due to Measles and Whooping Cough. Both these diseases are by their very nature much less amenable to control than the rest of the epidemic complaints of children. Notification of these two diseases have been tried for long periods in some large Cities, but the results have not been encouraging. By degrees, education of the people in the methods of caring for the children suffering from Measles or Whooping Cough, must be brought about, and the Children's Act, 1908, which came into

force in April, 1909, will be of great service in this matter. By Section 12 of this Act it is enacted that any "Person legally liable to maintain a child, shall be deemed to have neglected him in a manner likely to cause injury to his health, if he fail to provide adequate food, clothing, *medical aid*, or lodging for the child, or if, being unable otherwise to provide such food, clothing, medical aid, or lodging, he fails to take steps to procure the same to be provided under the Acts relating to the relief of the poor." If the parents sought medical aid for these diseases, and carried out the instructions of the medical man (and surely this is meant in the Act), there would be much less loss of life from these two diseases. It would seem that this Section will also cover the neglect of parents to remedy many of the defects that are being discovered among the school children.

The highly-important work of the inspection of school children was begun in the City in the beginning of September. Your Authority elected Dr. Laurence Pole as your School Medical Officer, and he has worked with much tact and discretion, most necessary qualities in commencing a new work of this nature. There has been no kind of friction, and the parents have shewn much interest in the work, and have appreciated the suggestions made to them on behalf of their children. Several difficult problems have presented themselves as regards those parents who will not take steps to remedy the physical defects which have been discovered in their children, and in many cases they cannot do so on account of poverty. It is clear that the discovery of the defects is of little good if the proper remedies cannot be applied. Dr. Pole has prepared a Report for the

Education Committee which points out in some detail the various defects which he has found. The Report also deals with the condition of some of the Schools, and so far as my experience and knowledge of the Schools goes, I can express my full agreement with the opinions he has there given.

The School Nurse, Sister Denham, has given most valued assistance, and her long acquaintance with the poor of the City has enabled her to befriend them in their homes when she has had necessity to visit the children there.

The work of the Health Office seems to grow year by year, and I am very grateful to your Authority for granting a second room in which your Medical Officers can carry on their work.

The Sanitary Inspector shews by his Report the large amount of work which he and the Assistant-Inspector get through. Mr. Taylor does thoroughly well all he takes in hand, and shews much patience and tact in performing his duties.

I beg to remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MABYN READ.

April 17th, 1909.

THE POPULATION of the City in the middle of 1908 is estimated at 49,318, on the assumption that the rate of increase since the 1901 census has been equal to that during the decade 1891-1901.

THE BIRTH-RATE is 23·92 per 1000 of the population, and is the lowest annual birth-rate recorded, being ·2 less than the average of the past 10 years (Table I.)

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 26·5 per 1000 of the population, which is less by 1·6 than the average of the 10 years 1898-1907. The birth-rate of the 142 smaller towns, among which Worcester is classed, was 26·0 per 1000 of the population.

THE DEATH-RATE was 16·58 per 1000 of the population, which is ·23 below the average of the past 10 years (Table I.)

The death-rate for England and Wales was 14·7, and is lower than the rate in any year on record, and 1·7 below the average rate of the past 10 years. The death-rate of the 142 smaller towns was 14·7, which is 1·88 less than the rate for Worcester.

Although the death-rate is slightly below the decennial average, it is not very satisfactory when the low infantile death-rate is taken into consideration. The cause cannot be found in any one class of disease, but is due to a slight increase in the number of deaths in many diseases.

THE INFANTILE DEATH-RATE is 113 per 1000 births. This is the lowest rate that has been recorded for the City, and is 28 per 1000 less than the average of the preceding 10 years. It will be seen in Table I. that in 1906

the rate was 119, and that in no other of the 10 preceding years was it under 130. The rate for England and Wales was 121, and was 21 per 1000 below the average of the 10 years 1898-1907. The average of the 142 smaller towns was 124, which was 11 per 1000 above the rate for Worcester.

Although it is a matter for congratulation that so low an infantile death-rate was recorded for the whole City during the past year, a scrutiny of the figures in Table III. (last column) will shew how varied in this rate in the different Wards of the City. In All Saints' Ward the rate was 182 per 1000 births; in South Claines the rate was only 65. The total population of the first three Wards of Table III. amounts to nearly 18000, and the average infantile death-rate in 1908 was 161; the last three Wards have a population of 31,302, and the death-rate was only 85. The year 1908 was no exception to the rule in this particular, as the following table shews:—

THE INFANTILE DEATH-RATE FOR THE SIX
WARDS OF THE CITY

for the years 1901 - 1908 inclusive,

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	Average for the 8 years.
All Saints	203	227	272	142	185	111	215	182	192
St. Nicholas ..	100	186	238	241	134	120	160	173	169
St. John.....	127	128	145	159	147	134	120	134	136
St. Peter	154	157	139	111	180	147	165	113	145
St. Martin....	134	168	124	151	109	100	125	78	123
South Claines	85	101	131	107	155	104	68	65	102
CITY OF WORCESTER	131	153	162	141	156	119	132	113	

The effects of ignorance, poverty with its consequences, and unwholesome surroundings are plainly marked in this Table, and the probabilities of the survival of infant life is easily seen ; it is twice as good in South Claines as it is in All Saints.

The fight against the malign influences that bring about the annual destruction of infant life in All Saints' Ward and similar areas will be a long one, but it is also one that will bring great reward to the City in increased health and vigour, and power of work in the citizens, with fewer falling out at an early age and coming on the Poor Law for support of themselves and families.

(Taken from Registrar General's Report of the 4th Quarter of 1908).

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Principal Zymotic Diseases (columns 4—10).	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.
Columns	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
England and Wales...	26·5	14·7	1·26	0·00	0·22	0·08	0·15	0·27	0·07	0·50	1·21
76 great towns	27·0	15·8	1·59	0·00	0·31	0·10	0·16	0·29	0·08	0·65	1·28
142 smaller towns ...	26·0	14·7	1·26	0·00	0·20	0·06	0·15	0·25	0·08	0·52	1·24
England and Wales, less the 218 towns	26·2	13·8	0·99	0·00	0·13	0·06	0·15	0·25	0·07	0·33	1·10
Worcester	23·9	16·58	1·03	0·00	0·42	0·02	0·18	0·26	0·02	0·12	1·13

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE was 1·03 per 1000 of the population, which is ·17 below the last decennial average (See Table VI.). The rate for England and Wales was 1·29, and that for the 142 smaller towns was 1·26, so that Worcester compares favourably as regards this death-rate.

The number of deaths recorded for each of the diseases belonging to this group, for 1908 and for the 10 preceding years, will be seen in Table VI. Of the 51 deaths, 34 were due to Measles and Whooping Cough. The cool summer and the vigilance of the Infant's Nurse brought the deaths from Diarrhoea much below the average, as was also the case in the year 1907.

On page 9 will be found a table of the death-rates of each Zymotic disease, and it will be seen that the rate for Worcester as regards Measles was high when compared with that of the 142 smaller towns; was very similar for Diphtheria and Whooping Cough; and was low for Scarlet Fever, Fever and Diarrhoea.

The death-rate from Cancer		was	1·03
„	„	Phthisis	„ 1·25
„	„	all other forms of Tubercle „	.56
„	„	Respiratory diseases, 94	
		to 101 in the Mortality	
		Table	„ 2·70

The City Coroner held inquests respecting the deaths of 67 persons during the year. Of these, 42 were males and 25 females. There were inquests on 16 infants under one year of age, of whom four were illegitimate, and six on children between one and seven years; 28 were on persons

between seven and 60 years ; and 17 on persons over 60 years of age.

The verdicts of the juries were :—

Suicide while insane	4
Excessive drinking	2
Want of attention at birth.....	1
Death by accident	34
„ from natural causes	23
„ „ drowning	1
„ „ causes unascertainable	2

In four cases children were suffocated while lying in bed with their parents. By the Children's Act, 1908, Section 13, a child under three years of age who is suffocated while in bed with a person over 16 years of age, and that person is proved to have been, at the time of going to bed, under the influence of drink, the person shall be deemed to have neglected the infant in a manner likely to cause injury to its health within the meaning of Part I. of the Act.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, AND THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN TO CHECK THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In the following Tables will be found the number of cases of these diseases which have been notified during each week and month of the year, and the number of patients who have been removed for isolation to the City Hospital.

The number of cases certified under the Act has been moderate throughout the year, and the cases have been distributed fairly evenly through the year. It is pleasing to note that only 15 cases of Typhoid Fever were certified, less than half the number in 1907, and two of these came from outside the City to the General Infirmary.

A severe epidemic of Measles began in the late Autumn, and to the end of the year had caused 21 deaths. In the early part of the year Whooping Cough was prevalent, and 13 deaths were due to this disease. Both these diseases began in 1907 and continued through most of the year 1908. There is much less care taken of very young children suffering from these diseases than ought to be and all the deaths except two occurred in children under five years of age.

The Diseases that are scheduled under this Act have been certified during the year as follows:—

Month.	Plague.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup	Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Total.
January	9	8	...	3	...	1	...	21
February	11	8	...	1	...	...	4	24
March	6	12	...	1	...	...	6	25
April	2	8	...	...	...	...	2	12
May	6	9	...	...	...	...	2	17
June	6	3	...	...	...	...	1	10
July	12	9	...	2	...	...	1	24
August	9	17	...	1	...	...	...	27
September	6	18	...	3	...	...	3	30
October	6	11	...	1	...	2	6	26
November	13	3	...	2	...	1	3	22
December	10	4	...	1	...	1	7	23
Total 1908	96	110	...	15	...	5	35	261
„ 1907	103	104	...	33	...	5	32	277
„ 1906	151	144	...	14	...	4	41	354
„ 1905	...	3	106	64	...	10	...	4	58	245
„ 1904	...	4	65	29	...	18	...	1	20	137
„ 1903	...	1	170	36	...	22	...	6	26	261
„ 1902	...	2	299	26	...	12	4	1	31	375
„ 1901	66	58	...	15	1	3	40	183
„ 1900	94	91	...	11	1	8	39	244
„ 1899	290	135	...	24	1	5	75	530
„ 1898	317	185	...	16	2	4	51	575
„ 1897	151	167	1	20	1	7	51	398
„ 1896	...	4	295	317	3	18	...	5	48	690
„ 1895	...	1	141	26	...	17	1	3	27	216
„ 1894	...	63	127	34	...	46	2	6	59	337
„ 1893	...	13	273	39	...	65	1	9	94	494
„ 1892	...	1	236	27	...	67	1	6	98	436
„ 1891	40	10	...	73	...	6	55	184
„ 1890	131	10	...	77	...	7	79	304

Week ending	Smallpox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria		Typhoid Fever.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.	
	Num- ber.	Iso- lated	Num- ber.	Iso- lated	Num- ber.	Iso- lated	Num- ber.	Iso- lated	Num- ber.	Iso- lated	Num- ber.	Iso- lated
Jan. 4.....	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
„ 11.....	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
„ 18.....	3	3	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 25.....	4	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Feb. 1.....	4	4	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
„ 8.....	5	4	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 15.....	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
„ 22.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
„ 29.....	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mar. 7.....	2	2	5	5	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 14.....	1	1	6	6	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 21.....	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	3	...
„ 28.....	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Apl. 4.....	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 11.....	1	1	5	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 18.....	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 25.....
May 2.....	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 9.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 16.....	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 23.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 30.....	2	2	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
June 6.....	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 13.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 20.....	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 27.....	4	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
July 4.....	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
„ 11.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 18.....	4	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 25.....	5	5	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aug. 1.....	2	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
„ 8.....	1	...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
„ 15.....	3	3	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 22.....	3	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 29.....	2	2	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sept. 5.....	1	1	6	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 12.....	2	2	4	3	...	...	...	...	2	...
„ 19.....	1	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 26.....	2	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Oct. 3.....	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
„ 10.....	1	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 17.....	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	4	...
„ 24.....	1	1	4	3	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ 31.....	1	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	1	...
Nov. 7.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 14.....	3	3	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
„ 21.....	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 28.....	6	5	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	...
Dec. 5.....	4	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 12.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	...
„ 19.....	4	3	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	...
„ 26.....	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
„ 26 to 30	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	96	82	110	76	15	7	5	...	35	...

SMALLPOX.—No case has been reported during the year.

The Smallpox Hospital is always in a state of readiness, and the Health Committee has ordered several substantial repairs to be done, which the condition of the buildings has rendered necessary.

SCARLET FEVER.—During the year 96 cases have been certified, and one death has occurred. The second quarter of the year had only 14 cases, and at no time was the disease unduly prevalent.

Of the total 96 cases, 83 were removed to Hospital, *i.e.*, 86·4 per cent.

The cases were distributed as follows :—

		Cases Certified.		Houses affected.		Patients removed to Hospital.
1st Quarter	...	26	...	24	...	23
2nd „	...	14	...	12	...	13
3rd „	...	27	...	27	...	25
4th „	...	29	...	26	...	22

The age and School distribution was as follows :—

	Quarters—1st.		2nd.		3rd.		4th.		Total.
Total cases	26	...	14	...	27	...	29	...	96
Secondary cases	4	...	3	...	—	...	3	...	10
Primary „	22	...	11	...	27	...	26	...	86

Of the primary cases there were :—

Adults	2	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	8
Children not at School	5	...	4	...	3	...	7	...	19
Children attend- ing School...	15	...	6	...	22	...	16	...	59

DIPHTHERIA.—The number of cases certified during 1908 were six more than in 1907, but 34 less than in 1906. There were 110 cases certified, and 78 were removed into Isolation, *i.e.*, 70·9 per cent. Death occurred in nine cases, one at the General Infirmary, four at the Isolation Hospital, and four at the patients' homes, three of these having died before the certificate of the illness was received at the Health Office.

There was an outbreak in the Wards of the General Infirmary, and 13 cases occurred. Ten of these were in one Ward, and occurred during the first fortnight of March. Most of them were certified on the reports of bacteriological examination of swabs of the sore throats that were prevalent.

The cases, omitting the 13 Infirmary cases, were distributed as follows :—

		Cases Certified.		Houses affected.		Patients removed to Hospitals.
1st Quarter	...	16	...	15	...	12
2nd „	...	19	...	19	...	15
3rd „	...	43	...	37	...	27
4th „	...	19	...	18	...	11

The age and school distribution was as follows :—

	Quarters—1st.		2nd.		3rd.		4th.		Total.
Total cases	16	...	19	...	43	...	19	...	97
Secondary cases	1	...	—	...	6	...	1	...	8
Primary „	15	...	19	...	37	...	18	...	89
Adults	2	...	3	...	8	...	5	...	18
No School	5	...	3	...	9	...	1	...	18
At School.....	7	...	14	...	20	...	12	...	53

Of the 53 children who attended school, three went to private schools and 50 to the various Elementary Schools of the City. Of these 50 children no less than 34 were in the Infant departments, shewing the much greater susceptibility of the child during the earlier years of school life. The fatality of the disease is also much greater. Of the nine deaths, six were in children under the age of five years.

On May 25th the Infant department of St. Nicholas' Schools was closed for three weeks by order of the Health Committee on account of an outbreak of Diphtheria and sore throat among the scholars.

TYPHOID FEVER.—There were only 15 cases of this disease certified in the City during the year. Two of these came to the General Infirmary ill from Whittington, two other persons who were sent to the General Infirmary as suffering from this disease, proved not to have it. One other contracted the disease when away on a summer holiday, and another was a secondary case living in the same house as a case notified in December, 1907.

Of the remaining nine cases, one probably contracted the disease from eating uncooked mussels, two lived in insanitary houses, but the cause of the disease in the other seven persons could not be ascertained.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Five cases of this disease were reported during the year. The first occurred in the practise of a midwife, and the patient was removed, by advice of a doctor, to the General Infirmary, where it was found that a portion of the placenta had been retained.

The second was at the Workhouse Infirmary, and was a woman who came there destitute and ill. She died about a month after the confinement. The third was a woman who was confined by her mother in a dirty room in Lych Street, and refused to be removed to the Workhouse Infirmary, although she was destitute of all things necessary for her safety. The fourth case was attended by a doctor and a midwife acting as nurse; as she was unsatisfactory she was dismissed from the case. The supervising Authority, after hearing a report of the facts, severely reprimanded this midwife for neglecting to observe some of the Rules of the Central Midwives Board. The Central Board, however, have decided that when a midwife attends a confinement in conjunction with a medical man, that he is responsible for the case, and that the midwife must conform to his directions, and is not bound by the Rules of the Central Board. The fifth case was that of a woman who was confined by a midwife who was struck off the Midwives' Roll in January, 1906.

THE MIDWIVES' ACT, 1902.—At the beginning of 1908 there were 15 midwives on the Roll practising in Worcester. During the year one died, and one was struck off the Roll for infringement of the Rules; and one was removed from the Roll at her own request. Two midwives have been added to the list during the year. Of the 14 midwives practising in the City, seven were in practise before this Act came in force, and seven have a diploma recognised by the Midwives Board.

By examination of the Midwives' Registers for the years 1906-7-8, it has been ascertained that the following births

had been attended by them as midwives, or as nurses when a medical man was in charge of the patient.

Year.		Total Births registered.		Births attended by midwives.
1906	...	1235	...	751
1907	...	1171	...	777
1908	...	1180	...	836

Those births were attended by 11 midwives (three on the Roll doing little or no work), but five of the 11 between them did less than 30 cases in each year ; while the other six averaged 120, 125 and 139 in the three years respectively.

During the year 38 notices, in accordance with Rule 20, were sent to the Medical Officer of Health. Of these seven were of stillbirths, and the remainder were notices of having sent for medical help on account of various difficulties found during labour, or owing to illness of mother or child.

No difficulty as regards payment of the medical men called in, has been brought to my notice ; and the Board of Guardians have consented to pay fees to the medical men called in by the midwives, on the scale that is paid to their own Medical Officers. This would seem to be a satisfactory solution of a problem which has been created by this Act.

A midwife was reported for not having advised that medical help should be obtained for treatment of "inflammation" of a child's eyes. The Supervising Authority interviewed the midwife and mother of the child. As the result the midwife was warned to be very careful in looking after the eyes of newly born infants.

A woman who was struck off the Midwives' Roll in March, 1908, kept for some time after a board outside her house saying she was a certified midwife. The Supervising Committee prosecuted her for this misrepresentation and the Court fined her £2 and costs, the fine not to be enforced if she did not act again as a midwife.

MEASLES.—This disease lingered in the City from the outbreak in 1907, and in the late autumn broke out again in epidemic form. There was a total of 21 deaths, and 15 of these were in the fourth quarter of the year. The Infant departments of the schools in the Parishes of St. Clement's St. John's and Holy Trinity were closed by order of the Health Committee to endeavour to check the spread of the disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH was also unduly prevalent during the first half of the year, a continuance of the epidemic of 1907. Of the 13 deaths, 11 occurred during the first six months and none during the last quarter.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There were 91 deaths during the year caused by the various manifestations of this disease. That is that one person out of every nine who died succumbed to this disease, *which is a preventable one*. Of the victims eight were under one year of age, nine between one and five years, 15 between five and 25 years, and 45 between 25 and 55 years, the time of life when the worker is of the most value to the community, and when death causes the greatest hardships to the family, and cost to the rates.

The voluntary notification of this disease resulted in 32 patients being certified during the year. These certificates

were sent by eight medical men, and 18 of them by one man. Fifteen of the patients were men between 20 and 40, 13 were women, and four were schoolgirls. Before the end of the year 14 of the 32 patients were dead.

During the years 1907 and 1908, 67 cases of Pulmonary Consumption have been voluntarily notified. Of these no less than 32 have died. In 51 instances careful notes have been taken of the history of the illness and of the patient's family. In 20 cases the infection was almost certainly due to the same disease in some other member of the family; in six other cases this was the *probable* cause; in six other instances some friend or workfellow had been ill with Consumption, and in 19 cases the source of the illness could not be traced. This failure to find the direct source of the illness is not to be wondered at when the slow onset and insidious course of the disease is taken into account. It will often be found that a patient has been "out of sorts" for many months before he suspects the kind of illness he is suffering from and seeks medical help. It is the complaint from all the Sanatoria in the Country *who admit cases of Consumption for cure*, that patients come too late, in too advanced a stage of the disease, and really the sufferers do not consult their doctor until the disease has been active for many months, perhaps years. This is a great pity, for there is no disease more curable, if taken in its earliest stage, than Pulmonary Consumption, and the hopeless view taken by the public applies only to the cases that have not been treated at the beginning of the illness.

It is, therefore, good preventive work which is being done by investigation of these cases of Consumption; as

knowledge of how the disease is spread and the means of limiting the danger is impressed on the sufferers and on their friends.

From the beginning of the year 1909, the Medical Officers working under the Poor Law throughout the country must notify to the Medical Officer of Health for their district all the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis that come under their care. This will, of course, largely increase the number of notifications, and among that class of the community that most need advice and help.

The same methods for controlling the spread of the disease have been continued, during 1908, as were detailed in my Annual Report for 1907, and disinfection of rooms, clothing, bedding, &c., has been carried out in many cases, and nearly always after the death of the patient.

ANTHRAX.—A man died of this disease, on May 17th, at the General Infirmary. He had made a *post mortem* examination on a cow, which had died on May 3rd, in the Droitwich Rural District. Until the disease from which the man was suffering was discovered, no precautions had been taken, and the hide of the animal had been brought with some others to the skin mart. Here it was found, seized and destroyed, and also those hides with which this infected one had been mixed, and thorough disinfection of the premises was carried out.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the number of admissions into the Isolation Hospital for the year 1908, and for the 18 years preceding :—

Year.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Total.
1890	...	97	...	22	...	119
1891	...	24	...	20	1	45
1892	1	107	4	9	1	122
1893	12	143	...	8	1	164
*1894	8	45	7	11	1	72
1895	...	79	6	5	...	90
1896	...	53	137	1	...	191
1897	...	82	70	1	...	153
†1898	...	214	73	...	...	287
1899	...	228	73	...	...	301
1900	...	79	58	...	1	138
1901	...	58	62	1	...	121
1902	...	203	17	1	...	221
1903	...	127	7	...	...	134
1904	...	52	18	1	...	71
1905	...	92	44	...	...	136
1906	...	128	95	...	...	223
1907	...	87	87	6	...	180
1908	...	85	74	...	...	159

*In this year a separate Smallpox Hospital was established.

†The New Hospital in the Newtown Road was opened in April.

Table shewing the number of patients who were admitted, discharged, and died during each month of 1908 :—

	Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria.		
	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
January ...	9	11	...	5	7	...
February ...	9	10	...	7	4	1
March	5	12	...	6	6	1
April.....	2	6	...	4	5	...
May	5	5	...	10	4	1
June	8	4	...	3	4	...
July	12	4	...	6	6	...
August	8	9	...	13	8	...
Sept'mber...	5	14	...	9	10	...
October ...	5	7	...	9	7	...
Nov'mber...	9	6	1	...	11	...
December...	8	3	...	2	4	1
Total.....	85	91	1	74	76	4

The following is a Table shewing the number of admissions and deaths under various age-groups :—

	Under 5 years.		5 to 10 years.		10 to 15 years.		15 to 20 years.		Over 20 years.	
	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	21	1	44	...	15	...	2	...	3	...
Diphtheria	15	1	28	1	13	...	8	1	10	...
TOTAL.....	36	2	72	1	28	...	10	1	13	...

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
In Hospital January 1st, 1908	22	8
Admitted during the year	85	74
	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 82
Discharged during the year.....	91 } 92	76 } 80
Died	1 }	4 }
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 2
Remaining in Hospital Dec. 31, 1908		

It will be seen that 159 patients were treated at the Isolation Hospital during the year. Three patients with Diphtheria and one with Scarlet Fever were admitted from the Martley District; and two with Scarlet Fever from Norton.

During the year 5 patients died, one from Broncho-pneumonia following a mild attack of Diphtheria; three others from the poison of Diphtheria; and one child from septic inflammation of the fauces, associated with Scarlet Fever.

One child developed Chickenpox after having been in the Scarlet Fever Ward a fortnight, and 5 other children took the disease in a mild form.

In two patients a second attack of Scarlet Fever occurred about a month after admission. The initial attack in each case was of a very mild character.

Bacteriological examination of the swabs of the throats of the Scarlet Fever patients on admission shewed that in 10 instances the Diphtheria bacillus was present, and in 17 Hoffman's pseudo bacillus was discovered. The patients who had the Diphtheria bacilli were separated from the other Scarlet Fever patients until the fauces were proved free from the germs of the disease.

RETURN CASES.—In three instances patients, after their return home were the probable cause of infection to other members of their family. A boy discharged December 30th, 1907, sister admitted January 13th, 1908. Two adults discharged to same house January 10th, a child of the family returned from a visit to her home on January 25th, and was attacked on February 5th.

A Girl discharged March 27th after having been in Hospital 57 days ; a sister and brother were attacked on March 31st and April 4th respectively. In all three of these instances the throats of the discharged patients were unwholesome, with large tonsils, and more or less blocked posterior nares ; and these conditions much increase the risk of infecting other persons.

The Disinfector was used 29 times during the year, on three occasions for persons residing outside the City, and 1942 articles were disinfected.

The sum of £7 7s. od. was received in payment for use of the Disinfector.

The work of the Hospital has gone on smoothly and well during the year, and the Matron and Staff Nurses have performed their duties conscientiously and kindly, and with excellent tact.

Thanks are due to many kind friends for gifts to the patients, especially to the Needlework Guild and to the Railway Mission.

THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

This Act came into force in the City at the beginning of April, 1908. In the previous week, cards enclosed in

printed stamped envelopes were sent to the medical men and midwives practising in the City, a circular letter was sent pointing out the requirements of the Act, and also a printed copy of Section I. of the Act. The Act has worked smoothly, and has been of the greatest value to the Health Visitor in helping to save infant life in the City.

THE INFANTS' HEALTH SOCIETY.—The very excellent work which was begun in July, 1907, by this voluntary Association has been continued through 1908. As the Notification of Births Act came into force at the beginning of April, 1908, the work of the Infant Health Visitor was much increased after that time. The Society's Report says that during 1908, 644 infants were entered on their register, and that 3,905 visits were paid to the houses where they lived. The Health Visitor inspects each week the book in which the Birth notifications are entered, and on or about the 10th day after birth she visits at those houses where her aid may possibly be required. She has been received kindly in all parts of the City, and a most encouraging feature is that more than 300 requests have been sent to her by poor mothers for her visits and advice.

From the Register of the 644 infants whom Nurse Booker has visited the following interesting facts have been taken:

385 families were in poor circumstances.

60 per cent. of the mothers suckled their infants, only 37 mothers went away from home to work, and only 62 had work in their own homes. These figures shew how little influence in Worcester the employment of women has on

the infantile death-rate, for these 644 infants were born among the most needy part of the population of the City.

Of the 644 infants, 44 died, a death-rate of 68 per 1000. Of these, 19 died from respiratory diseases, seven of these secondary to Measles, eight from bowel disorders, six from prematurity, five from "wasting diseases," three from Tubercle, and three from other causes.

These figures take no account of the improved condition of the home and of the health of the rest of the family which must result from the advice and encouragement given to the mothers.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

A good deal of work has been done during the year under these Acts.

The following houses have been represented during the year, a total of 51.

Dolday, No. 7.—Has been repaired and put in good order.

Queen's Street.—Five houses, which were closed by the owners.

Dolday, Court 5.—Seven houses, repaired and made fit for habitation.

Dolday, Court 6.—Nine houses, some have been repaired and others are being made habitable.

St. Paul's Street, No. 23 : Wellington Square (12 houses).—These houses have been much improved, and many alterations are being carried out.

Wellington Street, No. 14, Waterloo Street, No. 6.—Closed by Magistrates' orders in March, 1909.

Wellington Street, Nos. 2 and 6.—Have been put in good order.

Wellington Street, No. 10.—Notice has been served to make this house habitable.

Wellington Street, Court 1 (three houses), Wellington Street, Court 2 (two houses), Waterloo Street, No. 10.—These houses have been repaired and made habitable.

Hare's Lane (one house).—Has been made fit for habitation.

Melbourne Street, 2 and 4, Gregory Mill Street, 13 and 15.—The necessary work is being done to these houses.

One old house at the back of 78, Sidbury was demolished by the owner.

Three houses in New Passage, Blackfriars, were voluntarily closed by the owner, and promise given not to re-open them unless they were made fit for habitation.

At *St. Martin's Gate, Court 2*, the owner, at the suggestion of the Health Committee, made substantial repairs and improvements to the houses constituting this Court.

Hylton Road and Court 5.—There are here 12 houses facing the road, and 12 back to back with the former. Considerable repairs are being done to these 24 houses, and additional w.c's. and wash-house accommodation have been built. This work is being carried out by arrangement between the agent for the property and the Health Committee.

The seven houses constituting Court 6, Tybridge Street, were closed by the Magistrates on November 21st, 1908, after many months of delay and negotiations.

Many other houses have been dealt with under the Public Health Act by the Sanitary Inspector, and indeed, unless considerable structural repairs are necessary, this method of dealing with neglected property is to be preferred.

The refuse of the City is still being deposited in places convenient to the owner of the land, and for the cartage of the stuff. It causes annoyance to the neighbourhood, and often noxious smells that are injurious to health, and oblige people to shut their windows and doors. A prosecution took place during the year for a nuisance caused by the deposit of City refuse in a gravel pit, and the Magistrates ordered the owner of the land to abate the nuisance, and pay costs amounting to 20 guineas. As has been pointed out in many previous Reports, a refuse destructor is the only way out of this trouble.

There are a large number of houses in the poor parts of the City which are let out in single rooms, so-called "furnished apartments." The occupants are of the class who especially need supervision, and who live from hand to mouth, with no regular employment. It is very desirable that these houses should be under strict supervision, and your Authority can make Bye-laws for these houses which will enable this to be done.

DURING THE YEAR 1908.

NOTE.—The Deaths of Non-Residents occurring in Public Institutions situated in the District are excluded, and the Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions situated beyond the limits of the District are included.

[illegible]

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND
10 PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1000 births registered	Number	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	45,590	1264	27.7	170	134	785	17.0	124	27	14	772	16.7
1899	45,960	1240	26.9	186	150	894	19.2	146	37	8	865	18.6
1900	46,330	1246	26.8	175	140	896	19.0	136	36	15	875	18.6
1901	46,720	1202	25.7	158	131	799	17.1	144	39	8	768	16.4
1902	47,090	1197	25.4	185	153	838	17.7	116	37	9	810	17.2
1903	47,370	1284	27.1	208	162	824	17.3	95	45	11	790	16.6
1904	47,850	1256	26.2	177	141	791	16.5	140	40	10	761	15.9
1905	48,200	1200	24.8	188	156	816	16.9	193	49	5	772	16.0
1906	48,575	1235	25.4	147	119	763	15.1	202	48	15	730	15.0
1907	48,945	1171	23.9	155	132	850	17.34	188	32	24	842	17.18
Average for Years 1898-1907	—	1229	25.9	174	141	825	17.31	148	39	11	798	16.81
1908	49,318	1180	23.92	133	113	834	16.90	183	31	15	818	16.58

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water). } 3185

Total population at all ages 46,624 } At Census
Number of inhabited houses 10,475 } of
Average number of persons per house 4.45 } 1901.

TABLE II.—VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1908 AND 10 PREVIOUS YEARS.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1. ALL SAINTS.				2. ST. NICHOLAS.				3. ST. JOHN.				4. ST. PETER.				5. ST. MARTIN.				6. SOUTH CLAINES.			
YEAR.		Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1898	...	5819	201	134	34	5097	115	82	9	7452	193	134	26	9123	257	124	43	7871	238	126	25	10048	260	158	34
1899	...	5784	188	179	54	5078	89	82	15	7492	224	117	36	9233	254	132	25	7986	209	113	25	10240	276	147	27
1900	...	5689	180	156	42	5059	91	96	14	7532	217	140	24	9343	261	159	40	8101	228	137	24	10432	267	172	31
1901	...	5634	177	141	36	5029	100	71	10	7578	189	136	24	9553	227	134	35	8222	193	123	26	10608	316	155	27
1902	...	5634	171	159	39	5029	102	89	19	7578	187	99	24	9553	248	139	39	8222	214	131	36	10608	275	163	28
1903	...	5634	169	146	46	5029	105	87	25	7578	199	117	29	9553	244	148	34	8222	233	98	29	10608	334	183	45
1904	...	5420	218	132	31	4965	87	89	21	7700	188	121	30	9920	243	137	29	8625	231	119	35	11250	289	153	31
1905	...	5420	173	127	32	4965	104	89	14	7700	190	131	28	9920	233	146	42	8625	229	121	25	11250	271	153	42
1906	...	5420	206	105	23	4965	91	73	11	7700	208	126	28	9920	217	142	32	8625	248	117	25	11250	259	153	27
1907	...	5420	172	156	37	4965	75	84	12	7700	191	116	23	9930	242	176	40	8625	240	134	30	11250	251	152	17
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907.		5587	185	143	37	5018	95	84	15	7601	198	123	27	9603	242	143	35	8312	226	121	28	10754	279	158	30
1908	...	5180	186	135	34	4896	75	88	13	7862	178	160	24	10323	237	139	27	9027	243	128	19	11952	261	168	17

TABLE III.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS OCCURRING IN WARDS.

Ward.	Population estimated to the middle of 1904.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate.	Births.	Birth- rate.	Deaths under 1 year.	Infantile Death- rate.
All Saints ...	5180	135	24·1	186	33·9	34	182
St. Nicholas..	4896	88	17·9	75	15·3	13	173
St. John	7862	160	20·3	178	22·6	24	134
St. Peter	10323	139	13·4	237	22·9	27	113
St. Martin ...	9027	128	14·1	243	26·9	19	78
South Claines	11952	168	14·0	261	21·0	17	65

TABLE IV.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS OCCURRING IN WARDS.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Age.				
				Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	5—25 years.	25—65 years.	Over 65 years.
All Saints.....	67	68	135	34	14	8	45	34
St. Nicholas	37	51	88	13	4	3	28	40
St. John.....	84	76	160	24	16	7	44	69
St. Peter	66	73	139	27	7	7	50	48
St. Martin.....	66	62	128	19	12	11	40	46
South Claines ...	80	88	168	17	13	14	52	72

TABLE V.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.							No. OF CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION FROM EACH WARD.							Total cases re-moved to Hospital	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					All Saints.	St. Nicholas.	St. John.	St. Peter.	St. Martin.	South Claines.	In Public Institutions.	All Saints.	St. Nicholas.	St. John.	St. Peter.	St. Martin.	South Claines.	In Public Institutions.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.																65 and upwards.
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	110	—	22	59	14	15	—	7	13	9	15	13	40	12	7	6	7	8	25	6	71	
Erysipelas	35	—	1	3	4	24	3	6	—	8	6	6	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	96	—	22	66	5	3	—	8	10	19	20	22	16	1	7	18	13	19	14	1	82	
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	15	—	3	2	6	4	—	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	—	2	1	—	—	7	
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Fever	5	—	—	—	1	4	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	261	—	48	130	30	50	3	26	25	39	45	44	63	19	17	23	22	28	39	7	160	

NOTE.—The localities adopted for this Table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

TABLE VI.
DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1908, COMPARED
WITH THE PRECEDING TEN YEARS.

Year.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.			Diarrhoea.	TOTAL.	Zymotic Death-rate	All forms of Tuberculosis
						Typhus.	Typhoid.	Con- tinued.				
1898	19	10	29	...	...	1	...	18	77	1.7	94
1899	16	3	15	16	...	1	...	24	65	1.9	99
1900	19	3	13	4	...	1	...	19	59	1.3	81
1901	16	1	6	2	...	2	...	24	51	1.1	78
1902	4	10	2	32	...	2	...	15	65	1.3	68
1903	38	8	5	3	...	1	...	17	72	1.4	89
1904	12	...	1	4	...	...	...	22	39	0.8	90
1905	3	3	7	...	1	...	14	28	0.58	97
1906	3	7	6	...	1	...	13	30	0.61	96
1907	24	...	6	24	...	4	...	8	66	1.35	90
Average of the preced- ing ten years	...	14	4	8	9	...	1.4	...	17	55	1.2	88.2
1908	21	1	9	13	...	1	...	6	51	1.03	91

TABLE VII.
 INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908. DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES
 IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES	Certified ... ..	...	...	19	6	3	8	36	17	18	9	6	12	4	5	11	6	3	6	133
	Uncertified...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria : Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	6
	Diarrhoea, all forms ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	6
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis } Gastro-enteritis }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	..	2	1	1	...	...	1	1	12
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	7
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth ... ..	...	...	12	1	...	1	14	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	Congenital Defects ... ..	...	...	5	2	...	1	8	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Injury at Birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk, } Starvation }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Atrophy, Debility, } Marasmus }	...	...	1	...	...	3	4	2	3	1	1	1	...	...	1	3	...	...	16
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Tuberculous Peritonitis : } Tabes Mesenterica }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6
	Other Tuberculous Diseases }	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes.	Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Meningitis } (not Tuberculous) }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions ... ..	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	6
	Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	1	4	3	1	1	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	14
	Laryngitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	1	2	...	2	3	2	...	3	18
	Suffocation, overlying ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Causes ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
				19	6	3	8	36	17	18	9	6	12	4	5	11	6	3	6	133

Births in the year { legitimate 1111.
 illegitimate 69.

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 139.
 illegitimate infants 15.

Deaths from ALL CAUSES AT ALL AGES—818.

Population estimated to middle of 1908—49,318.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1908.

TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF
THE CITY OF WORCESTER.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Fourth Annual Report, that of the work done during the year 1908.

NOTICES.

The number of Preliminary or Request Notices issued for the abatement of nuisances and for obtaining sanitary improvements to dwellings was 1,348, and 108 Statutory Notices were served by orders from the Health Committee.

In two cases (one case referring to seven Notices), it was necessary to institute legal proceedings for failing to comply with the Statutory Notices. The Magistrates made an order for the work to be carried out, and fined the owner 14s. in the one case, and in the other made an order prohibiting the use of seven houses for human habitation, the owners to pay the costs, amounting to £4 11s. od.

The facts relating to the latter case were somewhat unusual, as the seven houses situate in Court 6, Tybridge Street, were first represented by the Medical Officer of Health under the Housing of the Working Classes Act as being in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, but we had difficulty in finding the real owners of the property, the ownership being very mixed up and in the hands of numerous

trustees, mortgagees, etc., and after much delay it was considered advisable to proceed under the Nuisance Clauses of the Public Health Act, 1875, where under that Act the person for the time being receiving the rent can be proceeded against as owner.

It is only fair to say that the Agents (Messrs. Yeates & Sons) did all they could to meet the demands of the Health Committee. They prepared specifications and obtained tenders for carrying out the required work, the lowest being £150, but they were unable to get all the owners to consent to the repairs being done, and it could not be expected for them as Agents to advance £150 out of their own pockets for the repairs with the chance of losing it.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Number of Notices (Preliminary) issued	1348
„ „ (Statutory) „	108
„ Complaints received and investigated	201
„ Letters sent with regard to notices, etc.	452
„ Notices sent to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Disease...	224
Rooms cleansed and limewashed.....	665
Dilapidated walls, floors, roofs and spouting repaired	274
Wash-houses repaired, cleansed and limewashed.....	252
„ floors and yards repaved or repaired	46
Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	125
Sink waste and rainwater pipes disconnected from drain ...	26
Drains opened and cleansed.....	184
Defective drains repaired or reconstructed	58
Glazed stoneware gully traps fixed	128
Ventilating shafts fixed or repaired	56

Inspection chambers or manholes constructed	22
Old privies converted into water closets	0
Waterclosets repaired, cleansed and limewashed	105
„ provided with water supply	5
„ flushing cisterns repaired.....	142
„ provided with new basins and traps	83
Defective joints in pans, traps, and flush pipes repaired.....	26
Nuisance from overcrowding abated	29
„ improper keeping of animals.....	65
Accumulations of manure removed	34
Manure receptacles constructed	3
Smoke nuisances abated	3
Wastes of water reported to Water Inspector	54
Number of references to City Engineer with regard to dangerous buildings, paving of Courts and foul street gullies.....	16
Emptying of ashpits, and dustbins referred to the Streets Superintendent	9
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	13
Factories and workshops provided with suitable sanitary accommodation	15
Houses closed by Magistrates' Order as unfit for human habitation	15
Ditto ditto made fit for human habitation under the Housing Act	25
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	217
Samples of food and drugs collected for the City Analyst...	93
Samples of tap and well water ditto ditto	7

HOUSE INSPECTION.

As in former years, a systematic house inspection has been made in all the Wards of the City, and the nuisances

discovered have been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the various Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws in force in the City.

This systematic house inspection is a matter of great importance, as by its means sanitary defects are promptly discovered, and this prompt discovery means the removal of those conditions which not only endanger the public health, but frequently causes considerable loss and damage to property.

It is often said that the Health Department are hard on owners of property, but this really is not so, for frequently we find premises that have been allowed to get in a ruinous condition for the want of that attention that ought to be given to property. Because of the desire to get the utmost return without dealing systematically with the causes of depreciation, it frequently becomes so dilapidated as to be almost beyond repair, and the owner is then faced with a large expenditure or a Closing Order.

In many cases, property is put into the hands of Agents, without giving them the power to do ordinary repairs, with the consequence that nothing is done except on our Notices.

OVERCROWDING.

Twenty-nine Notices have been sent to occupiers of houses where overcrowding existed, and the great difficulty in dealing with cases of this kind is that the people are frequently very poor and have large families, and they find it beyond their means to procure a house with sufficient accommodation to avoid overcrowding. Property owners

are also very chary of letting their houses to people with large families, as the children often do considerable damage to the property, which means thorough repairs before the house can be again let.

The character of some of the cases of overcrowding is shown by the following examples :—

In determining as to what is overcrowding, we measure the sleeping rooms, and allow 300 cubic feet for each person (two children under 10 years of age being counted one person). This is the minimum amount of space fixed by the Local Government Board for Common Lodging Houses.

A house consisting of two living rooms and two bedrooms was occupied by a family consisting of a mother, eight daughters—ages 26, 24, 23, 18, 15, 9, 8 and 7, and three sons—ages 21, 20 and 11. The cubic capacity of the bedrooms was 1,050 and 750 cubic feet respectively, this being only sufficient for six persons, whereas 11 people were living there.

In a house let off in separate rooms, we found the two following cases :—

A room used for both living and sleeping purposes was occupied by husband, wife, and five children, of ages ranging from 16 years to one month. The cubic capacity of the room was only 560 cubic feet, this being scarcely sufficient for two persons.

Another room used for both living and sleeping purposes was occupied by husband, wife, and four children. The cubic capacity of the room was only 580 cubic feet.

At another house with two small bedrooms, having only a cubic capacity of 780 cubic feet each, we found occupied by husband, wife and 10 children, ages from two months up to 16 years.

DRAINAGE.

The usual attention has been given to drainage improvements in connection with houses. Many improvements were carried out and the drains to 81 houses were repaired and re-constructed. The water test was applied to the new drains, and in all cases proper disconnection and ventilation provided. 121 stoneware gulley traps were substituted for the defective iron "lip" and "bell" traps.

The question of inspection and testing of drains on the request of any householder, without complaint of nuisance or any known defect came before the Health Committee at the end of the year.

After making inquiries as to the procedure in several other towns it was decided that when application is made for the inspection and testing of drains *without complaint of nuisance* the charge for same be :—

For inspection only, 10/6

For opening the ground and testing the drains by smoke or water, the actual cost in addition to the inspection fee.

Most of the houses that have come under our inspection, and that were built 20 or more years ago have been in need of serious repairs, and we should strongly recommend intending occupiers or householders who have any doubt as to the conditions of the drains of their houses

to take advantage of having an examination of the house drain, etc.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

At the end of 1908 there were 264 workshops on our Register (not including bakehouses).

Seventeen new workshops have been added during the year, and 30 have been struck off (26 having given up and four converted into factories). 349 visits of inspection have been made, and besides a number of minor defects which the occupiers remedied on their attention being called to them, it has been found necessary to issue 24 Notices relating to the following controvention:—

Want of cleanliness.....	13
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation .	10
Defective drains	5
Defective floors	1
Miscellaneous	3

In four instances it was found that young persons under 18 years of age, or women were being employed without the proprietors exhibiting an Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, and in each case H.M. Inspector was advised of the contravention. Sixteen Notices have been received from H.M. Inspector with respect to the following defects:—

Cubic space not specified	9
W.C. Pans require cleansing.....	3
Workshops require cleansing	3
Limewashing overdue in bakehouses	1

These defects were dealt with when reported and notice of the action taken was sent to H.M. Inspector.

HOMEWORK.

Fifty-one lists containing the names and addresses of 4,319 outworkers were received from the occupiers of factories and workshops during the year. In February 25 lists of 2,152 outworkers, and in August 26 lists of 2,167 outworkers were received.

The lists were examined and the names and addresses of those outworkers outside the City were forwarded to the various Councils of the districts in which they lived 1,064 names and addresses were sent to 27 different districts in the first half of the year, and 1,045 names to 27 districts in the second half.

One of the lists sent to us contained the names of 1,188 persons, and of these 789 lived in 146 villages or parishes belonging to 20 separate districts outside Worcester.

It will be seen that considerable time and trouble was expended in ascertaining to which districts these small parishes belong.

There have been 366 recorded visits to home-workers' premises, mostly during the course of house-to-house inspection, and 26 notices were issued for obtaining sanitary improvements to their dwellings.

In seven instances it was necessary to forbid the giving out of work because of infectious disease in the household.

[Table sent by Home Office].

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	...	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	499	24	...
Workplaces... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	...	...	...
Total	499	24	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	13	13	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	1	1	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	8	8	...	...
†Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient ... ..	...	...	...
	unsuitable or defective	10	10	...
	not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to out- work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	...	...	...	...
Total	32	32	...	...

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†For districts not in London state here whether section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council ; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

NATURE OF WORK.*	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.			
	Lists received from Employers.		Twice in the year.		Once in the year.		Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils.	Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (Section 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
	+	Lists.	+	Outworkers.	+	Outworkers.												+	Lists.	+	Outworkers.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
Wearing Apparel—																	
(1) making, &c. ...	44	4290														7	
(2) cleaning and washing...	...	...														...
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	...	...														...
Furniture and Upholstery ...	...	...														...
Fur pulling ...	...	...														...
Umbrellas ...	...	...														...
Paper Bags and Boxes ...	2	2		3												...	
Brush making ...	4	24														...	
Stuffed Toys ...	...	...														...
File making ...	...	...														...
Electro Plate ...	...	...														...
Cables and Chains ...	...	...														...
Anchor and Grapnels ...	...	...														...
Cart Gear ...	...	...														...
Locks, Latches and Keys ...	...	...														...
TOTAL ...	50	4316		3												7	

* If an occupier gives out work of more than one of the classes specified in column 1, and subdivides his list in such a way as to show the number of workers in each class of work, the list should be included among those in column 2 (or 4 as the case may be) against the principal class only, but the outworkers should be assigned in column 3 (or 5) into their respective classes. A footnote should be added to show that this has been done.

† The figures required in columns 2 and 3 are the total number of lists received from employers who sent them both in February and August as required by the Act and of the entries of names of outworkers in those lists. They will, therefore, usually be double of the number of such employers and (approximately) double of the number of individual outworkers whose names are given, since in the February and August lists of the same employer the same outworker's name will often be repeated.

‡ In these instances.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Important classes of workshops, such as } workshop bakehouses, may be enumer- } ated here. }	264
	81
Total number of workshops on Register	345

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)...	4
Action taken in matters referred by } H.M. Inspector as remediable } under the Public Health Acts, } but not under the Factory and } Workshop Act (s. 5). }	16
	16
Other ... ..	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	None
In use at the end of the year	5

SHOP HOURS ACT.

Most of the Shops close for half-a-day each week, so that the "young persons" working there do not work more than the time allowed, viz., 74 hours per week.

Visits have been made, and Abstracts of the Act, to hang up, have been supplied in cases where none were found.

No case of infringement of the Act has come to my notice during 1908.

Under the Shop Hours Act, 1904, the Council made a Closing Order with regard to the trades of Hairdressers and Barbers. The Order specifies the hour on the several days of the week at which all Hairdressers' and Barbers' Shops shall close.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ACT, 1903.

This Act prohibits a child (under 14 years of age) being employed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

It also contains clauses prohibiting children carrying burdens likely to cause them injury, and from being employed in any occupation likely to be injurious to their lives, limbs, health and education.

Inquiries have been made, and in only one instance have I found a boy working beyond the fixed hour. After calling the employer's attention to the provision of the Act, he gave immediate instructions for the boy not to work after 9 p.m.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of Private Slaughterhouses in the City

remain the same as in former years, viz.—32 registered and one licensed annually for killing pigs only.

Frequent visits have been made to the slaughterhouses to see that the bye-laws are complied with, and to inspect as far as possible, the meat killed in them.

Most of the butchers do their best to keep the slaughterhouses clean, and in as good order as their structure will permit, but situated, as many of them are, in close proximity of dwellings, some degree of annoyance and discomfort to the surrounding inhabitants is inevitable.

The Bye-laws regulating slaughterhouses have been printed in large type, and mounted on stiff cardboard, and a copy has been hung up in each slaughterhouse.

During the year a circular from the Local Government Board was received, urging steps being taken to secure the humane slaughtering of animals in slaughterhouses, and I have at every opportunity pointed out the most humane methods to the slaughtermen.

The Health Committee also instructed the Town Clerk to remind the Local Government Board of the inadequate powers of Local Authorities over Private Slaughterhouses, and to suggest that the Board should initiate legislation to increase their powers.

PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

During the year various improvements have been carried out at the Public Slaughterhouse in Croft Road. The walls of the house used for slaughtering pigs were lined with white glazed bricks, and the drainage of the other

three houses was made to discharge by means of open channels over gullies situated in the open air.

The improvement in the Pig Slaughterhouse is very great, as the cleansing of the walls is made easy; it is brighter, decidedly better from a sanitary point of view, and I trust at no distant date that the walls of the other houses will be similarly treated.

The following is the number of animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse during the past three years ending March 25th.

	1907		1908		1909
Number of Beasts.....	527	...	370	...	476
„ Sheep.....	1364	...	1060	...	1454
„ Calves	423	...	360	...	398
„ Pork Pigs ...	1723	...	2030	...	2133
„ Bacon Pigs ...	22	...	22	...	19
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total.....	4059		3842		4480

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There were 74 dairymen and purveyors of milk on our Register at the end of 1908. Nineteen new names were added during the year, and six were struck off, having given up business.

One person was summoned for carrying on the trade of a purveyor of milk without being registered under the Dairies and Milkshops Order, and was fined 10/- and 17/6 costs.

The whole of the dairy premises have been visited twice during the year, and at other times as occasions required

to enforce compliance with the regulations with regard to cleanliness, storage of milk, etc.

There are five Registered Cowsheds on our Register, and these have been regularly visited.

The most common fault is failure to groom the hind quarters of the cow, and to keep the udder and teats clean. In some cases I have found these parts plastered with dung, and no attempt made to clean them.

In only one cowshed have I seen the cattle clean and groomed.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following articles of food were destroyed as diseased, unsound, or unwholesome :—

34 lbs. Norwegian Prawns.

Two Cheeses.

154 lbs. Hake.

196 lbs. Codfish.

7 lbs. Shrimps.

Carcase of a Cow.

224 lbs. Tripe.

The Saturday Market has been regularly inspected, and I have cautioned several small shopkeepers concerning food of doubtful wholesomeness which has been exposed for sale, and which has been destroyed with consent of the owner.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 93 samples have been submitted to the City Analyst, all being taken in the ordinary way under the Food and Drugs Act. Of these 90 were certified as genuine and three as adulterated.

All the samples, with the exception of milk, were purchased by deputy.

The following Table shows the amount of adulteration during the past five years :—

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Samples Analysed.....	60	79	85	87	93
Adulterated Samples...	3	11	5	7	3
Adulterated samples per cent.	5	13·9	5·9	8	3·2
Total Amount of Fines and Costs	£3 15 0	£33 14 6	£14 2 6	£20 5 0	£23 19 0

The samples collected were as follows :—

Quarter ending March 31st, 1907.

Butter. 7 Genuine.

Milk. 7 „

„ 2 adulterated (a) 40 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids ; and 22·6 per cent. deficient in fat.

(b) 23·5 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids, and 46·6 per cent. deficient in fat.

Milk (skimmed) ... 1 Genuine.

Sugar, Demerara ... 2 „

19

Quarter ending June 27th, 1908.

Butter ... 8 Genuine.

Cheese ... 1 „

Coffee ... 3 „

Flour (Self-raising) ... 1 „

Ginger ... 2 „

Jam, Raspberry	...	1	Genuine.
Lard	...	3	„
Margarine	...	1	„
Milk	...	8	„
Sugar	...	3	„
		<hr/>	
		31	

Quarter ending September 26th, 1908.

Butter	...	3	Genuine.
Camphorated Oil	...	3	„
Castor Oil	...	1	„
Coffee	...	2	„
Cream	...	1	„
Jam	...	3	„
Lard	...	1	„
Milk	...	7	„
Olive Oil	...	1	„
		<hr/>	
		22	

Quarter ending December 31st, 1908.

Beer	...	5	free from Arsenic.
Bread	...	5	„ „ injurious substances.
Butter	...	2	Genuine.
Lard	...	1	„
Liquorice Powder, Compound		1	„
Milk	...	1	„
Milk	...	1	Adulterated : (c) 18·8 per cent. de- ficient in non- fatty solids.
		<hr/>	
		21	

MILK.

Thirty-one samples of Milk were submitted, and of these three were found to be adulterated. Proceedings were taken against each of the vendors, with the following results :—

(a) *Sample No. 45.*—40 per cent. added water and 22·6 per cent. deficient in fat. Fine £7 10s. and £1 5s. 6d. costs. Two previous convictions were proved against the vendor in this case.

(b) *Sample No. 56.*—23·5 per cent. added water and 46·6 per cent. deficient in fat. Fine £1 and 7/6 costs. The defendant (a small shop-keeper) was also fined 10/- and 17/6 costs for carrying on the trade of a purveyor of milk without being registered in accordance with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

(c) *Sample No. 27.*—18·8 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids. Fine £10 and £3 15s. costs.

This case was peculiar, inasmuch as the analysis of the sample by the vendor's analyst differed materially from that of the City Analyst, and from that analysed at Somerset House.

No explanation of the matter was made at the trial before the Magistrates.

WATER.

Six samples of tap water were submitted for chemical analysis, and each sample was reported as satisfactory, and being fit for drinking purposes.

One sample of well-water was examined. It was opu-

lescent, and the analyst advised pumping to remove this. Otherwise the sample was satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

One additional Common Lodging House has been added to our Register, making a total at the end of 1908 of 12 houses, with accommodation for 205 lodgers in 61 rooms.

6 of the houses take in men only.

2 „ „ „ married couples and men.

3 „ „ „ all persons.

1 house takes in women only.

The houses are some of the oldest in the City, and one cannot speak favourably of the suitability and construction of several of them.

Frequent visits have been made to the houses, and the bye-laws have been fairly well observed.

The Lodging House at No. 42, Newport Street, for women only, established last year by several philanthropic ladies, has been fairly well patronized, and many of the women seem very thankful to have such a house to resort to.

To avoid the over-crowding of the Lodging Houses, and to provide more accommodation for the hop-pickers who generally flock to the City at the end of the hop-picking season, the following steps were taken :—

(1) Circulars signed by the Mayor (Mr. J. Stallard) and the Chairman of the Health Committee (Alderman J. A. Steward) were sent to 76 hop-growers asking them to send their pickers into the City early in the morning so as to enable them to reach their homes the same night.

(2) The Chairman of the Guardians was asked to relax the regulations as to admission of persons to the Union during the hop-picking season, and urged to only make a reasonable charge to the pickers when other accommodation could not be found.

(3) Extra accommodation for 40 lodgers was provided at the Registered Lodging Houses by temporarily using unregistered rooms, etc.

But it was found that more sleeping accommodation was still required, and under the supervision of the Chief Constable straw was provided and the sheds in the Cattle Market were thrown open for those who liked to take shelter in them.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Four tripe-boilers and one fellmonger made applications for the renewal of permission to carry on offensive trades under Section 112 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and consent was given subject to the conditions mentioned in their applications.

There are also three fellmongers and two gutscrapers which were established previous to the Public Health Act, 1875.

Frequent visits have been made, and the premises as a rule were found in a satisfactory condition. One complaint was received of the offensive smells arising from one tripe-boiler's premises, and after investigation the nuisance was abated.

PUBLIC BATHING.

The Bathing Barges have been fairly well patronized,

and the Health Committee again granted the exclusive use of the Barges to the scholars of the Elementary Schools between 10 and 12 a.m. on school days.

The receipts during the last three years have been as follows :—

	1906.			1907.			1908.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ladies' B. B....	20	6	10	8	19	6	14	0	0
Men's B. B. ...	29	10	10	9	3	0	20	16	0
Total.....	49	17	8	18	2	2	34	16	0

In conclusion I have to express my sincere thanks to the Town Clerk and Medical Officer of Health for the valuable advice they have at all times given me, and my best acknowledgments are due to your Assistant Inspector (Mr. J. Sheppard) for his ready help, without which it would have been impossible to have performed such a large amount of work.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RALPH TAYLOR,

Cert. R. Sanitary Institute,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

CANAL BOATS ACT.

The following is a copy of the Annual Report submitted to the Local Government Board, as required within 21 days after 31st December in each year:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report required by Section 3 of the Canal Boats Acts, 1884, as to the steps taken by your Authority during the year 1908 to give effect to the provisions of the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884, and of the Regulations made by the Local Government Board concerning them.

The number of Boats inspected during the year was 64, and, generally speaking, the condition of the boats (with the exception of 11 mentioned later) were found to be satisfactory.

The occupants were civil and obliging, and I had no difficulty to obtain admission to the cabins, and as a rule every facility for inspection and enquiry was afforded.

Most of the boats met with were of a good class and belonged to large carrying companies, who pay strict attention to their boats, and endeavour to keep them in conformity with the Acts and Regulations.

Twelve infringements were discovered on 11 of the boats, and the following list shows their nature:—

Masters without certificates.....	1
Certificates not identifying the owner ...	1
Boats not properly marked	2

Cabins not sufficiently ventilated	3
Cabins requiring to be painted	2
Boats out of repair	1
Boats without proper water vessels.....	2

To have these infringements remedied, it was necessary to serve four Complaint Notices, and to write numerous letters to the owners of the boats. Other cases were dealt with by giving verbal instructions to the Masters.

The number of women on the boats inspected was 20, this is a slight increase compared with 15 in 1907, and 12 in 1906. Six children, between 5 and 12 years of age, and 10 children under 5 years, were found on board the boats.

No case of infectious disease was reported on any boat during the year.

There were 156 boats on our Register at the end of 1908.

The Certificate of one boat was cancelled and no application for registration was received.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

RALPH TAYLOR,

Cert. R. Sanitary Institute,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.